

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

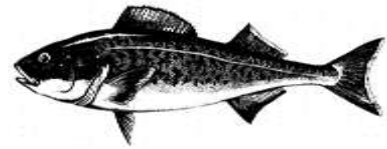
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2012 ALEUTIAN ISLANDS STATE-WATERS SABLEFISH SEASON OPENS MAY 15

State waters of the Aleutian Islands will open to commercial fishing for sablefish beginning noon, May 15, 2012. The state-waters sablefish guideline harvest level for the 2012 Aleutian Islands fishery is 472,000 pounds.

The state-waters sablefish vessel registration area includes all state waters west of Scotch Cap Light (164° 44' W longitude) and south of Cape Sarichef (54° 36' N latitude). The state-waters sablefish fishery will close when the guideline harvest level is achieved, or on November 15, 2012. Participants in the fishery must deliver all sablefish within 72 hours of the fishery closure. Sablefish may not be taken in a directed fishery or retained as bycatch inside state waters before or after the directed state-waters sablefish season. **Federal individual fishing quota (IFQ) fishermen are reminded that when the state-waters sablefish season is closed, sablefish may not be harvested from state waters.**

All vessels targeting sablefish in state waters, including IFQ holders and those fishing for Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups, must be registered for the state-waters sablefish fishery with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor. All sablefish processors must notify the Dutch Harbor ADF&G office prior to the start of operations, and report processing activities weekly. **Fishermen are required to submit logbooks for the state-waters sablefish fishery within 7-days of landing.**

Only pot, longline, jig and hand troll are legal gear types. Vessel operators may longline pots in the Aleutian Islands District of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area, but not in the Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

A vessel operator delivering state-waters sablefish east of 164° 44' W longitude must check out of the sablefish registration area by contacting the department in Dutch Harbor before departure from the registration area. In addition, a vessel operator delivering outside of the registration area may be required to submit to an inspection at a point designated by the local representative of the department.

Vessels operators should note fishing is prohibited within three nautical miles of Kanaga Island/Ship Rock (51° 46.70 N, 177° 20.72 W) during the state-waters sablefish fishery.

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